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MATHEMATICAL GEOGRAPHY AND CARTOGRAPHY

Höhenschichtenkarten. Studien und Kritiken zur Lösung des Flugkarten-problems. Von Dr. Karl Peucker. Sonderabdruck aus der *Zeitschrift für Vermessungswesen*. Jahrgang 1910. 59 pp., 4 figures and 1 colored plate. Konrad Wittwer, Stuttgart.

This paper, which is nominally intended to offer a contribution to the problem of maps for aëronauts, is far more comprehensive than its sub-title implies. After detailed critical review (pp. 3-32) of previous methods of representing relief on maps by gradational color schemes the author presents a summary of the system he first developed in his treatise on "Schattenplastik und Farbenplastik," Vienna, 1898, which is based on a rational adaptation of the color sequence of the spectrum. The present paper is accompanied by a highly suggestive map showing the application of the author's method to a section of the Austrian map of Central Europe, 1:200,000, which he himself characterizes as the first complete application of his principles. The solution he offers of the general problem of plastically representing relief he also believes to be the right one in the preparation of maps for aëronauts.

Whatever subsidiary criticisms of Peucker's method may be, his lasting contribution to cartography is that he has supplanted subjective and arbitrary methods by a rational and scientific principle.

W. L. G. J.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Meteorology Practical and Applied. By Sir John Moore. Second revised and enlarged edition. xxvii and 492 pp., III pls., 98 figs. Rebman Limited, London, 1910.

It is a good sign when a book on meteorology, like that of Sir John Moore, goes into a second edition. The volume is not adapted for use as a text-book in teaching, hence its sale must be practically altogether among the great body of "general readers" who have an interest in weather, and are anxious to know something about its controls. Sixteen years have elapsed since the publication of the first edition, and, as was to be expected, the new book is both "revised and enlarged." *Meteorology Practical and Applied* is clearly the work of a practicing physician who has many interruptions in the pursuit of his "hobby," if the latter term can really be applied properly to a subject which is as closely related to a man's profession as meteorology is related to medicine. Sir John Moore's book is evidently the outgrowth of the author's keen interest in meteorological conditions, and in the relation of these conditions to health and disease. He has read over a fairly wide range of subjects, but almost altogether in English, and his chief source of information has been the *Quarterly Journal* of the Royal Meteorological Society. Excellent as that journal is—and its usefulness is steadily increasing—one would hardly wish to be dependent upon it as the sole, or even the chief, authority for the progress of meteorology. It is along this line that meteorologists will probably feel most disposed to criticize Sir John Moore's book.

We have said that the book is not well adapted for use in teaching, being rather loosely put together, and very uneven in its treatment of important subjects. It differs from most text-books on meteorology in the amount of space which is devoted to Climate (there are two chapters on climate, and two on the climate of the British Isles), yet it cannot be said that even these chapters are

satisfactory. The author's medical interests are clearly reflected in his discussion (Part IV) of "The Influence of Season and of Weather on Disease," in which many facts are brought together, chiefly scattering British observations.

It is, of course, rather unfair to criticize too harshly a book by an author who does not pretend to be a meteorologist. Yet a volume on meteorology is, after all, a volume on meteorology, and as such must be subjected to favorable or unfavorable comment. Our author, it should be said, protects himself in his opening statement, that "the writing of this book has been to me a labour of love," yet in the second paragraph of his preface he adds that "the physician of all men has the fullest opportunities of observing the far-reaching influence of weather and climate upon human health, happiness and longevity." It is unfortunate that Hadley's explanation of the deflective effect of the earth's rotation (pp. 4-5) should be given as if it were complete and accurate; that (p. 5) the expression "these winds must make for that centre so as to fill up its vacuum" should be used (a similar reference is made to a vacuum on p. 157); that there should be so inadequate an explanation of the diurnal variation of the barometer, without any reference to the important researches of Hann, Margules and others; that there should be so very superficial a treatment of cyclones and anticyclones, with practically no mention of the general circulation of the atmosphere, although the trades are mentioned, and, we regret to say, the "anti-trades," meaning the westerlies.

In many respects the book is up to date, as in the new chapter on the upper air. It is, however, behind the times in the matter of forest meteorological observations, although, we are very glad to say, ahead of the times in referring to Professor C. F. Marvin, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, as "the late Professor Marvin." On page 260 Prof. F. W. Very is referred to as Prof. F. W. Verz. The book is particularly strong in its descriptions of instruments, a large number of which, it may be said, are practically, or wholly, unknown in this country.

R. DEC. WARD.

GENERAL

Statistique Annuelle de Géographie Comparée. Par Jean Birot, Agrégé de l'Université, Professeur au Lycée Carnot. 6me Année 1910. Hachette et Cie., Paris. 32 pp.

An invaluable little publication (Cf. *Bull.* Vol. 40, p. 179). Based on the official statistical publications of the various countries, the leading statistical journals and such publications as the Statesman's Year Book and the Almanach de Gotha, this pamphlet of 32 pp. contains a compact summary of the world's statistics of value to the geographer. Its contents are divided as follows:

[I] Population: (a) of the world, (b) by countries; [II] Agriculture and Industries: (A) Foods, classified as of mineral (i. e. salt), vegetable and animal origin, (B) Textiles, of vegetable and of animal origin, (C) Fuels, (D) Minerals; [III] Commerce: (A) Transportation: (1) Navigation, (2) Railroads, (B) Postal and Telegraph Service, Telephones, (C) Value of Commercial Transactions (export and import), [IV] Finances; Army and Navy. In each subdivision of section II and in section III A, additional statistics are given for France, but otherwise the information is well co-ordinated. In sections I, II and IV enumeration is necessarily by countries, in section II by products, classified according to the country of their origin. Section Ib gives the population of each country, its density, the population of its major subdivisions and of its larger cities. Section III A 1 gives the tonnage cleared at the principal